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ARMED FORCES MEDICAL LIBRARY

NEWS

VOL.VIII, No.4 APRIL 1953

ISSUED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

1952 AFML CATALOG

The 1952 AFML Catalog, delivered to the Government Printing Office on 18 March, is scheduled for publication on 19 June. The volume contains 813 pages almost equally divided between Part One: Authors and Part Two: Subjects. It may be ordered through the Card Division of the Library of Congress at $17.50 per copy.

ANNUAL REPORT PUBLISHED

The third in the Library's series of published annual reports, and the first since reorganization of the Armed Forces Medical Library, appeared last month. It is a document of 89 pages, composed of seven chapters, twelve statistical appendices, an introduction, and a roster of officers. There are approximately 15,000 words in the narrative portion, and these have been boiled down from almost twice that number submitted from the various divisions and the Office of the Director. Besides the subjects one would ordinarily expect to find in a publication of this kind, there are sections which cover chairs, heat dismissal policy, parking facilities, and payroll procedure, making it obvious that there is something more to operating a library than merely stamping due-dates in books going out on loan. In fact the most frequently recurring rubrics seem to be 'work-loads,' 'budget,' 'personnel,' and variations on 'space' and 'building.'

Special thanks are due Mrs. Alice E. Luethy, who contributed many extra hours to the task, for the final editing, typing and production of the report. Inconsistencies and stylistic lapses, wherever they may appear, must be charged to the Director and Chief Librarian, who edited the manuscript on planes, trains, trolleys, or whenever occasion offered.

Copies are being mailed to selected institutions and libraries this month. A summary of the statistical tables has already appeared in the AFML News for December 1952.

Printing cost borne by the FRIENDS of the Armed Forces Medical Library.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL LIBRARY

EUROPEAN ACQUISITION TRIP

Dr. William Jerome Wilson, Chief of the History of Medicine Division, AFML, will leave Washington on 3 April 1953 for a two-month tour of duty in Europe.

Dr. Wilson will visit a number of cities in Italy, Germany, Austria, France, and England, to survey the rare book market and to acquire books for the Library. In addition, he will study the collections of some outstanding European libraries with a view toward the acquisition of film copies of materials not held by AFML. It is hoped that some new contacts for acquisition sources also may be made.

Dr. Wilson will return to his duties in Cleveland sometime late in May. It is hoped that he may be able to report on his experiences at the annual meeting of the Medical Library Association at Salt Lake City in June. It is tentatively planned to devote the August issue of the News to an account of Dr. Wilson's purchases and other acquisition arrangements.

WELT-SEUCHEN-ATLAS

Through the courtesy of Admiral Lamont Pugh, AFML has received a copy of the World-Atlas of Epidemic Diseases, Part I (Europe and Mediterranean Basin), edited by Ernst Rodenwaldt for the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, U. S. Navy (1952). Text and maps are in one volume, beautifully printed, in German and English. The Zeiss Seuchen-Atlas (News, September 1947) was a forerunner.

FOOTNOTE ON JSB

In an old volume on the history of medicine, now being recataloged, we have come across a bill from Brentano's, dated 27 May 1893, to Dr. Billings, for four books whose list price totals $4. The books are listed by title only: Last Sentence, Jean Berny, Wasted Crime, and Tommy Dore. All but the last have been bibliographically identified; Sentence is by Maxwell Gray (pseudonym of Mary Gleed Tuttiett), Berny is a translation from the French of L.M.J. Viaud, and Crime is by D. C. Murray. Are these mysteries, juveniles, or a combination of both? Did Billings read them, or did he merely pass them on to other persons unknown? Is there a historian who would like to try to reconstruct Billings' life and character on the basis of this hitherto unknown document?

More pressing, is it imcumbent upon the Library to preserve this fragment of the "total record"?

P.S. Bill paid 1 June 1893.

DR. CULLEN DIES

Dr. Thomas S. Cullen, internationally known gynecologist and pioneer in promoting medical illustration, died at his home in Baltimore on 4 March 1953. Dr. Cullen established, in 1910, the world's first department of medical art at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and at the time of his death was Emeritus Professor of Gynecology at Johns Hopkins University. He was a member of the Association of Honorary Consultants to the Army Medical Library and one of the Library's foremost supporters in its attempts to acquire a new building.

PHOTODUPLICATION PROBLEMS

The problem of maintaining the photoduplication service as an effective and efficient operation in the face of the enormously increased demands being made upon it is a matter of great concern to the Library. If the almost 100,000 orders per year are to be prepared in a reasonable length of time, material must flow in an endless belt system through processing, binding, and shelving to its final delivery to the cameras. Deviations from the normal work flow result in delays all along the route. The problem cannot be solved by adding more personnel to the staffs of the PD Section and the Stack Service.

A recent survey of one day's order receipts disclosed the following interesting and disturbing data:

	Number	Percent
Photoduplication requests received	701	100
Requests filled (within one week)	220	31.4
Requests unfilled	481	68.6

1) 203 orders, or 28.9%, were unfilled due to the fact that the book was on loan - in use in the reading room, out on local or interlibrary loan, or already in the PD Section when requested. In order to cope with this problem - the inability to produce a volume because it is in use elsewhere - a master film file of the most heavily used journals of the last ten years is being built up, and an ingenious machine has been designed and is now being built which will be able to process this film file material to best advantage.

2) 108 orders, or 15.4%, were unfilled due to the fact that the volumes requested were away at the bindery. Substantial numbers of AFML volumes have been away at the GPO bindery for as long as ten months at a time. The Library is doing everything possible to correct this situation, so far with indifferent results.

3) 65 orders, or 9.3%, were unfilled because they were not in the Library's collections - out of scope.

4) 46 orders, or 6.6%, were unfilled due to the fact that the issue requested had never been received in the Library.

5) 41 orders, or 5.8%, were unfilled due to incorrect or incomplete references furnished, so that the items wanted could not be located. Of these orders, 18 were never identified, even with the help of the professional staff. Incorrect references must be taken from the normal routine chain of work and may then require weeks or months to finish. Here is an area where users of the PD service can help; PLEASE CHECK YOUR REFERENCES.

6) The remaining 18 orders, or 2.6%, were unfilled for miscellaneous reasons. (For example, one item was not in physical condition to film, another was missing from the shelves, and nine items were restricted by copyright.)

AFML will make every effort to resolve problems at this end of the line; it is hoped that users of the service will do their share. There is no reason why in most cases the average correctly-cited PD request should not be mailed to the person ordering the article within 72 hours of receipt of the order at the Armed Forces Medical Library.

FIELDING H. GARRISON LECTURE

Dr. Dorothy M. Schullian, of the Library's History of Medicine Division in Cleveland, will deliver the Fielding H. Garrison Lecture at the annual meeting of the Association of the History of Medicine in Columbus, Ohio, 10 - 12 April 1953. Dr. Schullian's subject will be "An Introduction to the History of Medicine, 1498."

PAPERS ON SUBJECT CATALOGING

Mr. Taylor's paper "Subject Catalogs vs. Classified Catalogs," and Colonel Rogers' paper "Application and Limitations of Subject Headings: The Pure and Applied Sciences," presented last summer in New York, have now been published as part of The Subject Analysis of Library Materials, edited by Maurice F. Tauber (School of Library Service, Columbia University, 1953). An abridgement of another paper by Colonel Rogers appears in the section "Symposium on Subject Headings" in the December 1952 issue of the Journal of Cataloging and Classification.

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